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(Dubrovnik 2011)  
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# **Agricultural quality standards in European Union (EU)**

## How they fit into a broader framework

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## What is “food”?

Food, from a legal point of view, means any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or **unprocessed**, intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans.





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## EU Principles and requirements of food law

EU Food law establishes the rights of consumers to safe food and to accurate and honest information

### Objetives

- The assurance of a high level of protection of human life and health. (Environment, Animals and Plants)
- The free movement of food as an essential aspect of the internal market.
- Protection of consumers' interest (Fair Trade)



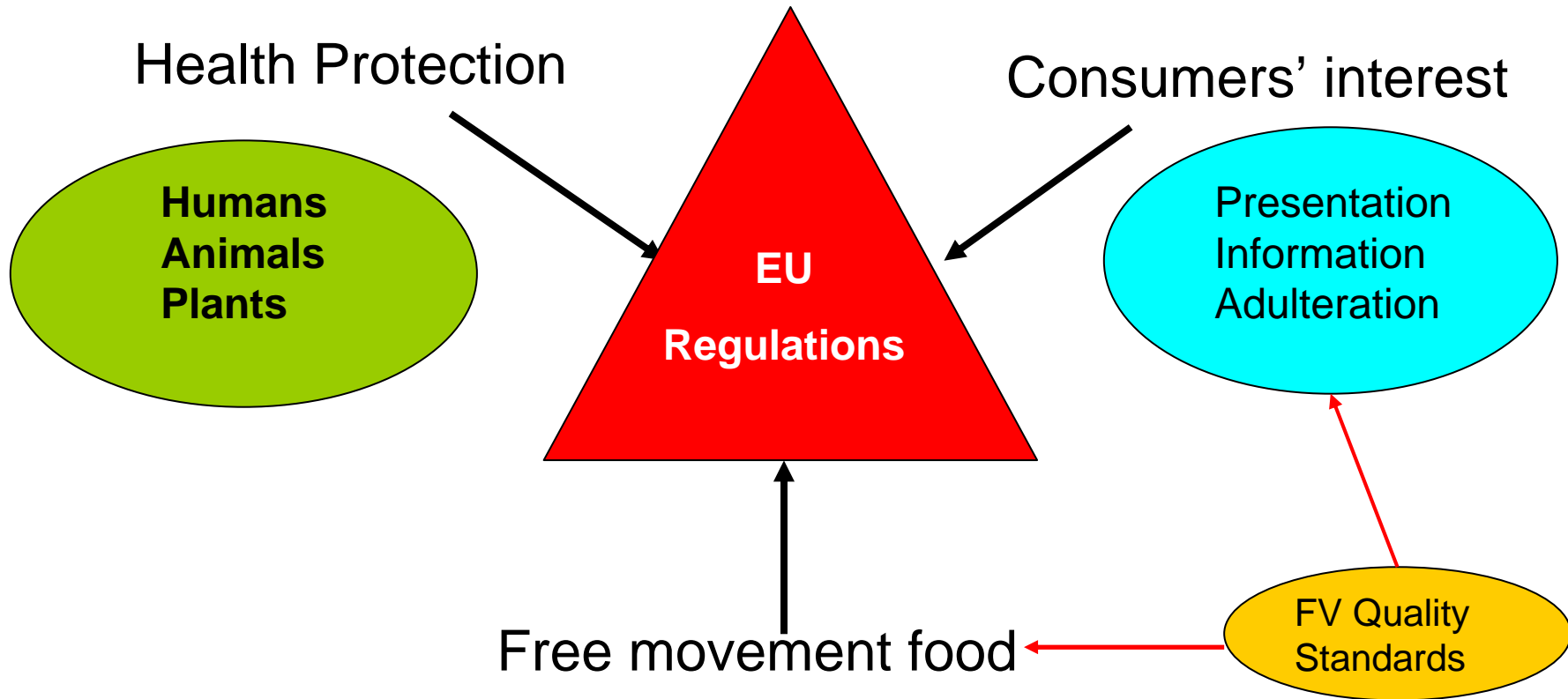
Regulation (EC) 178/2002

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu//Result.do?T1=V2&T2=2002&T3=178&RechType=RECH\\_naturel&Submit=Search](http://eur-lex.europa.eu//Result.do?T1=V2&T2=2002&T3=178&RechType=RECH_naturel&Submit=Search)

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/training\\_strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm) (Better training for Safer Food)

## EU Food law principles





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## Food safety requirements

Food shall not be placed on the market if it is unsafe and it shall be deemed to be unsafe if it is

- Injurious to health.
- **Unfit for human consumption**





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How to achieve the objective of  
Protection of Human Health and Life?

Reach the objectives is based on **risk analysis** but  
**What is risk analysis?**

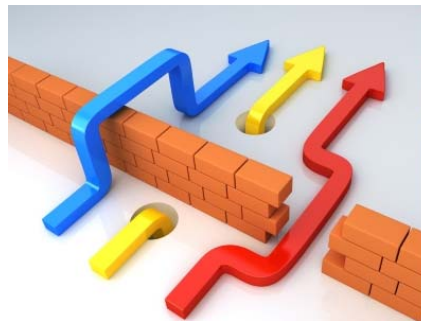
**Risk analysis** means a process consisting  
of three interconnected components:

- Risk assesment
- Risk managment
- Risk communication



## Risk Analysis system

- **Risk assessment** means a scientifically based process consisting of four steps: hazard (*agent*) identificación, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment and risk characterisation.
- **Risk management** means the process for selecting appropriate prevention and control options.
- **Risk communication** means the interactive exchange of information and opinions through the risk analysis process.





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## Free Movement Food

Recourse to a risk analysis facilitate **the avoidance of unjustified barrier** to the free movement of foodstuffs







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## Consumers' interest

The labelling, advertising and presentation of food, including their shape, appearance or packaging, the material used, the manner in which they are arranged and the setting in which they are displayed, and the information which is made available about them through whatever medium, **shall not mislead consumers.**





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## Operators Responsibilities

- Food business **operators shall ensure** at all stages of production, processing and distribution that foods **satisfy the requirements** of food law.
- Food operators **shall be able to identify** any person from whom they have been supplied with food or any substance intended to be incorporated into a food.



## Traceability System

Traceability means the ability to trace and follow a food, feed, food producing animal or substance intended to be or expected to be incorporated into a food or feed, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.



## Why is important Traceability?

- The identification of the origin of food ingredients and food sources is of prime importance for the protection of consumers.
- Traceability facilitates the withdrawal of unsafe food.
- Identify and document information on product “one step forward and one step back” in the food chain.



## Export - import

- Food exported or re-exported from the Community for placing on the market of a third country shall comply with relevant requirements of food law, unless the importing country may be in force other regulation.
- **Importers** are required to identify **from whom** the product was exported **in the country of origin**.





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## Member States Responsibilities

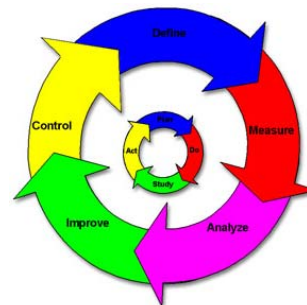
- Must enforce food law and verify that the relevant requirements of food law are fulfilled by food business operators.
- Must maintain a system of official controls including public communication on food safety and risk.



## “Food Quality”

Quality, from a technical point of view, is a concept associated to different fields and requirements that products must meet to be according specifications and comply consumers expectations.

- The EU safeguards food quality in many ways: via measures to enhance food safety and hygiene, labelling rules, regulations on animal and **plant health** and animal welfare, control of pesticide residues and additives in food and via nutritional information and **others regulations.**
- The EU approach includes strict monitoring and control systems, while ensuring the effective functioning of the European single market.





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## Plant Health

- To protect the **safety of food derived from plants** and to secure the health and quality status of crops in all member states.
- To regulate the trade of plants and plant products within the EU as well as imports from the rest of the world in accordance with international plant health standards and obligations.
- To supervise the sale and use of plant protection products.
- EU legislation also covers the intellectual property rights granted to plant varieties, as well as the conservation and use of genetic resources.



[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/index_en.htm) (Pesticides Residues)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1282&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN> (New rules on pesticide residues)





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## PH-Third countries import

### Regulation

Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2000:169:0001:0112:EN:PDF> (Directive 2000/29/EC)

Before introduction in EU certain plants and plant product must be accompanied by a **phytosanitary certificate**, issued by the National Plant Protection Organisation of the exporting country.

### Exemptions:

- Plants and objects passing through the territory of the Community.
- Small quantities of plants when they are intended for use by the owner or non-industrial or non-commercial purposes.
- The entry of plants which are intended for trial or scientific purposes.
- The entry of plants produced or used in the immediate frontier zone between a Member State and a third country.

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/organisms/imports/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/organisms/imports/index_en.htm) (Third Country imports)



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## Plant Health (links)

- EU Action on pesticides.

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/evaluation/docs/factsheet\\_pesticides\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/evaluation/docs/factsheet_pesticides_en.pdf)

- EU Database of approved pesticides

[http://ec.europa.eu/sanco\\_pesticides/public/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public/index.cfm)

- New rules on pesticides residues in food

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/explanation\\_pesticide\\_residues.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/protection/pesticides/explanation_pesticide_residues.pdf)





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## Agriculture Quality Policy

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/policy/quality-package-2010/>

The “**Quality Package 2010**” is a policy on certification schemes, value-adding terms for agricultural product qualities, and product standards, covering the different facets of quality, the package comprises:

- '**Agricultural Product Quality Schemes Regulation**'
- **New general base-line Marketing Standard**
- **New Guidelines** of best practices on voluntary certification schemes and on the labelling of products.



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## - Agricultural Product Quality Schemes Regulation

A new framework for the development of **Optional Quality Terms**, such as feeding method and production method.

### **Geographical indications and Registration:**

- Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)
- Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)
- Traditional Speciality Guarantee (TSG)

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/schemes/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/schemes/index_en.htm)

### **Database of Origin and Registration - DOOR**

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/door/list.html;jsessionid=pL0hLqgLXhNmFQyFI1b24mY3t9dJQPflg3xbL2YphGT4k6zdWn34!-370879141>





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## Food quality certification schemes

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/certification/>

### **New general base-line for marketing standard**

For all agricultural products and a specific power to adopt place-of-farming and other sectoral rules for marketing product.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0738:FIN:en:PDF>

### **EU best practice guidelines for voluntary certification schemes.**

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/policy/quality-package-2010/certification-guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/policy/quality-package-2010/certification-guidelines_en.pdf)

Global View production process(es)

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/certification/inventory/global-view-production-process\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/certification/inventory/global-view-production-process_en.pdf)

PDO –PGI Labelling Guidelines

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/policy/quality-package-2010/labelling-guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/policy/quality-package-2010/labelling-guidelines_en.pdf)



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## Fruit and Vegetables Common Market

The operation and development of the Common Market for agricultural products had to be accompanied by the establishment of a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and a system of Market Common Organizations.

F V Market Organization define as **compulsory the use of common obligatory standards for fruit and vegetables**, for products marketed within the Community or **exported/imported to/from** third countries.



## FV Common Market - Regulations

- **R(EC) 1234/2007 Common market organisation**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:299:0001:0149:EN:PDF>

- **R(EC) 543/2011 Implementing rules for fruit and vegetables regime**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:157:0001:0163:EN:PDF>





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## FV Marketing Standards

The use of FV Marketing Standard provides a reference framework that encouraged fair trading and market transparency.

The use of MS eliminates products of unsatisfactory quality from the market and the compliance with these standards helps to improve the profitability of production and to defend consumers' interest.







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## EU FV Marketing Standard

- **EU Specific marketing standards**

Specific marketing standard have been adopted for apples, citrus fruit, kiwifruit, lettuces, curled leaved and broad-leaved, peaches and nectarines, pears, strawberries, sweet peppers, table grapes, tomatoes.

- **EU General Marketing Standard (GMS)**

Fruit and vegetables not covered by a specific marketing standard shall conform to the general marketing standard. However, where the holder is able to show that the products are in conformity with any applicable standard adopted by the UNECE, they shall be considered as conforming to GMS

## Exemptions

- Intended for **industrial processing** or animal feed, clearly marked for this purpose.
- Product transferred by the producer on his holding to consumers for their **personal use**.
- As request a Member State: product of a given region which are sold by the retail for a well established traditional local consumption.
- Products “ready to eat” or “kitchen ready”
- Dried Fruits





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## Coordinating authorities - Inspection bodies

- Each Member State should designate the inspection bodies responsible for carrying out conformity checks at each stage of marketing.
- One of those bodies should be responsible for contacts with and coordination between all other designated bodies.





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## Trader database

- Member States shall set up a database on traders in fruit and vegetables, which shall list the traders involved in the marketing of fruit and vegetables.



## Checks on conformity

- Checks on conformity to marketing standards will be carried out at all marketing stages, in order to verify that products are conformed to MS.
- The conformity checks are carried out selectively, based on a risk analysis, and with appropriate frequency, so as to ensure compliance with the marketing standards.
- The risk analysis is also based on the information contained in the traders database and traders are classified in risk categories.



## Criteria to assess the risk (I)

- Product: nature, price, the volume of the lot.
- Operations: the packing and handling operations, the storage conditions, the means of transport.
- Company: the size of the trader, their position in the marketing chain, the volume or value marketed.
- Production: the weather conditions, the period of production, the country of origin.



## Criteria to assess the risk (II)

- Findings made during previous checks including the number a type of defects found.
- Quality system: The reliability of traders' quality assurance systems or self checking systems related to the conformity to marketing standards.





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## Approved traders

Member States may authorise traders classified in the lowest risk category and providing special guarantees on conformity to marketing standards to use a logo in the labelling of each package at the stage of dispatch and/or to sign the conformity certificate.

	European Union marketing standard for fresh fruit and vegetables No (of the approved trader) (Member State)
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## Certificate of conformity

- The Certificate of conformity is the compulsory document in foreign trade of FV.
- Certificates of conformity can only be issued by a competent authority to confirm that the products concerned conform to the relevant marketing standard.
- The certificates may be issued either in paper format with original signature or in verified electronic format with electronic signature.



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## Third countries conformity checks

- The Commission may approve checks on conformity to specific marketing standards carried out by that third country prior to import into Union.
- The approval may only apply to products originating in the third country concerned and may be limited to certain products.
- The third countries approved, and the products concerned, shall be set out in Official Publications of Commission.
- The approval will be considered as a criteria of low risk.



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## Acceptance of declarations by customs

- Customs may only accept export declarations and/or declarations for release for free circulations for the products subject to specific marketing standards.
- The competent inspection body has informed the customs authority that the lots concerned have been issued a conformity certificate or they do not need to be checked in the light of risk assesment.





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**Thank you for your attention**

**Dubrovnik, October 2011**